

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES (YEAR 2)

STUDY OVERVIEW

Study Mandate

Commission on Youth was asked to:

- Assess and identify elements that strengthen families;
- Analyze measures other states are taking, as well as various federal initiatives to strengthen families;
- Determine strategies to strengthen family service systems; and
- Formulate recommendations that strengthen families and support marriage.

Issues

- Services provided in variety of settings
- Multiple funding streams for child and family-related services
- Multitude of issues causing family deterioration
- Family deterioration is costly and has a huge fiscal impact upon the Commonwealth
- Personal issues and lifestyle choices v. neutrality of government

Study Activities

- Identify issues to be included in Study
- Define those issues
- Evaluate issues by systemic and economic impact
- Issues to be studied include but not limited to:
 - ❖ Marriage
 - ❖ Out of wedlock births
 - ❖ Divorce
 - ❖ Single parent families
 - ❖ Fatherless families
 - ❖ Incarcerated parents
 - ❖ Welfare reform and impact upon the family
 - ❖ Child support enforcement
 - ❖ Increase of high-risk behaviors by youth
- What partnerships and best practices can strengthen Virginia's families?
- How do strong families improve Virginia's economy?
- Should government promote marriage and abstinence?
- Coordinate with various agencies to ascertain specific services/programs for children and families
- Identify data sources
- Services available, how and for whom
- Funding sources

- Unmet needs, who is not being served and why
- Analyze existing data results
- Formulate recommendations/potential recommendations
 - ❖ Convene Advisory Group to review policy development and capacity building
 - ❖ Provide supports to two-parent families to reduce divorce rate
 - ❖ Build upon capacity of system to support families
 - ❖ Faith-based organizations
 - ❖ Encourage interagency collaboration to improve support children and families
 - ❖ Abstinence education to reduce teen pregnancy
 - ❖ Implement a policy agenda supporting marriage
 - ❖ Implement a policy agenda that takes advantage of any federal funds available through the TANF program

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES TIMELINE 2003

	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Literature review		➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤
Analysis of Virginia practice				➤	➤	➤		
Summary of states experiences				➤	➤	➤		
Receive presentation from TANF funding entities					➤		➤	
Develop first year findings					➤	➤	➤	
Present findings to COY							➤	

2004

	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Literature review	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤	➤		
Summary of states experiences	➤	➤	➤	➤					
Analysis of Virginia practice	➤	➤	➤	➤					
Advisory Group Meetings			➤	➤	➤	➤	➤		
Regional Focus Group Meetings					➤	➤	➤		
Develop recommendations						➤	➤	➤	➤
Refine recommendations								➤	➤
Present findings to COY			➤				➤	➤	
Write report					➤	➤	➤	➤	➤